

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 00684 251239Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 039212

O R 251202Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEIDATE 7146

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 684

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJ: ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS' ASSESSMENT OF CARAMANLIS' MOOD

1. ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS, WHO HAS JUST ARRIVED IN ATHENS, TOLD ME AT OUTSET OF MY COURTEST CALL UPON HIM EARLY EVENING OF JANUARY 24 THAT PROME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WAS EVEN MORE DISTURBED NOW OVER DETERIORATING PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE WITHIN GREECE AND BETWEEN ATHENS AND ANKARA THAN AT HEIGHT OF AUGUST CYPRUS CRISIS. (COMMENT: THIS IS HARD TO BELEIVE BUT THAT IS WHAT THE ARCHBISHOP SAID.) CARAMANLIS TOLD THE ARCHBISHOP THAT HE HAD PLANNED TO MAKE A PERSONAL APPEAL TO REASSURE THE GREEK NATION THAT WAR PREPARATIONS WERE NOT BEING CONTEMPLATED BY ANY PARTY WHEN THE NEWS STORY ABOUT THE M-48 TANK DEAL WITH TURKEY BROKE. ACCORDING TO THE ARCHBISHOP, CARAMANLIS WAS UPSET AND DISAPPOINTED WITH THE PENTAGON "ANNOUNCEMENT" WHICH HE FELT DEFEATED HIS OWN INTENTION TO DAMPEN DOWN POPULAR DISQUIET IN GREECE. I GAVE THE ARCHBISHOP THE FACTS OF THE LONG PENDING M-48 "KIT" AGREEMENT, WHICH HAD BEEN BADLY MISREPRESENTED HERE, AS I HAVE ALSO DONE WITH BITSIOS (SEPTEL.

2. THE ARCHBISHOP OFFERED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT NOW WAS THE TIME FOR SOME KIND OF NEW ASSURANCE FROM THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY TO CARAMANLIS. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETRY FOR BITSIOS AND CARAMANLIS WHICH  
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00684 251239Z

I WOULD GIVE TO BITSIOS LATER FRIDAY NIGHT. I DID NOT DISCLOSE

THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE BUT INDICATED I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY THE GOG.

3. THE ARCHBISHOP CLOSED WITH THE INTERESTING ITEM THAT CARAMANLIS, WHO KNEW THAT THE ARCHBISHOP WOULD BE SEEING ME LATER THAT SAME DAY, HAD VOLUNTEERED THAT HE BELIEVED THE TIME MIGHT BE AT HAND FOR A HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL GREEK AND TURKISH CONSULTATION. HE SAID CARAMANLIS SEEMED READY TO SUPPORT EITHER A HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL TALKS AND HAD INDICATED A RECEPTIVITY TO POSSIBLE U.S. OR BRITISH -- OR BOTH -- INVOLVEMENT.

4. I TRIED TO GIVE ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS EVERY ASSURANCE OF OUR VIGOROUS PERSONAL AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF GREECE AND CYPRUS FOR I BELEIVE HE IS SINCERE IN HIS ASSESSMENT THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT TO RECONSTRUCT POSITIVE GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND THAT HE HIMSELF IS TRYING TO DO THIS AS HE MAKES HIS ROUNDS. I ALSO INDICATED TO HIM MY APPRECIATION FOR HIS MOST HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN ATHENS THURSDAY AFTERNOON (ATHENS 0661).

KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** STATE  
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